



21st March, 1800,

Read the first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House next Monday week.

A Bill

To authorize the President of the United States, to accept for the United States, a cession of jurisdiction of the Territory west of Pennsylvania, commonly called the Western Reserve of Connecticut.

1 SEC. 1. **B**E it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
2 the United States of America, in Congress Assembled, That the President
3 of the United States be, and he hereby is authorized to execute and
4 deliver letters patent in the name and behalf of the United States, to
5 the governor of the state of Connecticut for the time being, for the use
6 and benefit of the persons holding and claiming under the state of Con-
7 necticut, their heirs and assigns forever, whereby all the right, title,
8 interest and estate of the United States, to the soil of that tract of land
9 lying west of the west line of Pennsylvania, as claimed by the state of
10 Pennsylvania, and as the same has been actually settled, ascertained and
11 run in conformity to an agreement between the said state of Pennsylv-
12 vania and the state of Virginia, and extending from said line westward
13 one hundred and twenty statute miles in length, and in breadth through-
14 out the said limits in length, from the completion of the forty first de-
15 gree of north latitude until it comes to forty two degrees and two mi-

16 nutes north latitude, including all that territory commonly called the
 17 Western Reserve of Connecticut, and which was excepted by said state
 18 of Connecticut out of the cession by the said state heretofore made to
 19 the United States, and accepted by a resolution of Congress of the four-
 20 teenth of September, one thousand seven hundred and eighty six, shall
 21 be released and conveyed as aforesaid to the said Governor of Connec-
 22 ticut and his successors in said office, forever, for the purpose of quiet-
 23 ing the grantees and purchasers under said state of Connecticut, and con-
 24 firming their titles to the soil of the said tract of land.

25 *Provided however,* That such deed shall not be executed and deliver-
 26 ed, unless the state of Connecticut shall, within one year from passing
 27 this act, by a legislative act, renounce forever for the use and benefit of
 28 the United States, and of the several individual states who may be there-
 29 in concerned respectively, and of all those deriving claims or titles from
 30 them or any of them, all territorial and jurisdictional claims whatever, un-
 31 der any grant, charter or charters whatever, to the soil and jurisdiction
 32 of any and all lands whatever lying westward, north-westward and south-
 33 westward of those counties in the state of Connecticut, which are boun-
 34 ded westwardly by the eastern line of the state of New-York, as ascer-
 35 tained by agreement between Connecticut and New-York in the year
 36 one thousand seven hundred and thirty-three, excepting only from such
 37 renunciation the claim of said state of Connecticut, and of those claim-
 38 ing from under the said state to the soil of said tract of land herein de-
 39 scribed under the name of the Western Reserve of Connecticut.

40 *And provided also,* That the said state of Connecticut shall, within the
 41 said one year from and after passing this act by the agent or agents of
 42 said state duly authorized by the legislature thereof, execute and deli-
 43 ver to the acceptance of the President of the United States, a deed ex-

44 presly releasing to the United States the jurisdictional claim of the said
45 state of Connecticut, to the said tract of land herein described, under
46 the name of the Western Reserve of Connecticut, and shall deposit an
47 exemplification of said act of renunciation, under the seal of the said
48 state of Connecticut, together with said deed releasing said jurisdiction,
49 in the office of state of the United States, which deed of cession when
50 so deposited shall vest the jurisdiction of said territory in the United States :
51 *Provided*, That neither this act nor any thing contained therein shall be
52 construed so as in any manner to impair the right of any other state, or of
53 any person or persons claiming under any other state in any existing dis-
54 pute concerning the right either of soil or of jurisdiction with the state of
55 Connecticut, or with any person or persons claiming under the state of Con-
56 necticut : *And provided also*, that nothing herein contained shall be con-
57 strued in any manner to pledge the United States for the extinguishment
58 of the Indian title to the said lands, or further than merely to pass the ti-
59 tle of the United States thereto.